

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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OCTOBER 16, 2003

VOL. 127

No. 36

CLM Conference sees attendance rise

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor


Church library specialists from across Mississippi gathered at First Church, Jackson, on October 3-4 for the 32nd annual Church Library Ministry (CLM) Conference. However, if the name sounds a little different from past years to most folks, there's a reason.

"Participants at this year's conference voted to change the name of the program from Church Media Library, which has been in use for many years, to Church Library Ministry. The change was made to be consistent with the national program, which recently changed to Church Library Ministry," said Ian Richardson, conference coordinator and communications director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

Richardson said 105 people representing 20 Mississippi Baptist associations registered at the conference. "The attendance



PROMOTING HISTORY — Mary Broussard (standing), media library director at Denham Springs Church in Denham Springs, La., leads a session entitled, Promoting Your Church History, on October 3 during the 2003 Church Library Ministry Conference at First Church, Jackson. A total of 105 people participated in the conference. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

MISSISSIPPI

BAPTISTS
CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

was the largest number we've had at the conference in recent years," he pointed out. Speakers included:

- Morlee Maynard, director of church library ministry for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.
- Mary Broussard, media library director for Denham Springs Church in Denham Springs, La.
- Suzanne Burton, senior accounts representative for Book Systems in Huntsville, AL.
- Hope Ferguson, library director at First Church, Natchitoches, La.
- Sandra Fitts, library director at First Church, Corinth, library ministry director for Alcorn Association in Corinth, and outgoing president of the Mississippi Baptist CLM Association.
- Stephen Gately, who works at the E.C. Dargan Research Library of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.
- Eva Nell Hunter, national specialist in the church media program with LifeWay and library director for Central Church in Decatur, AL.
- Jerry Sager, manager of the LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson.
- Ronnie Falvey, education/discipleship pastor at First Church, Jackson.
- Barbara Westerfield, library director at First Church, Jackson.
- Tim Nicholas, assistant professor of communication at Mississippi College in Clinton.

Cheryl Swain, library director for the past 15 years at First Church, Madison, is the new president of the Mississippi Baptist CLM Association. She stressed that the Mississippi CLM conferences are crucial for both professional and volunteer librarians who are managing church library programs.

"I am a volunteer church librarian. What

I have learned about church libraries has come from these conferences and that's why these conferences are so good," she said.

Swain estimated that about 700 individuals are registered with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as having some role in their church's library ministry.

"A church library provides many valuable services to the ministries of a church. There is no end to the written and audio/visual materials that are available, and it is all 'safe material' in that church members and members of the community can be sure there are no bad language and inappropriate situations in the material.

"In addition, a church library provides educational materials for teaching, study, discussion, and how to conduct such ministries as prison ministry," she said.

Swain believes the October 3-4 confer-

ence was one of the best in the program's history. "The participation was excellent. There was a variety of interesting speakers and topics. There were several new church librarians, which is always encouraging because it means new people are coming into the program," Swain said.

The next CML conference will be held June 4-5 at Patterson Place on the grounds of Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The next CML annual meeting will be held October 1-2 at First Church, Corinth. For more information on CLM in Mississippi, contact Richardson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3290 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 290. E-mail: irichardson@mbcb.org.

The Church Library Ministry is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

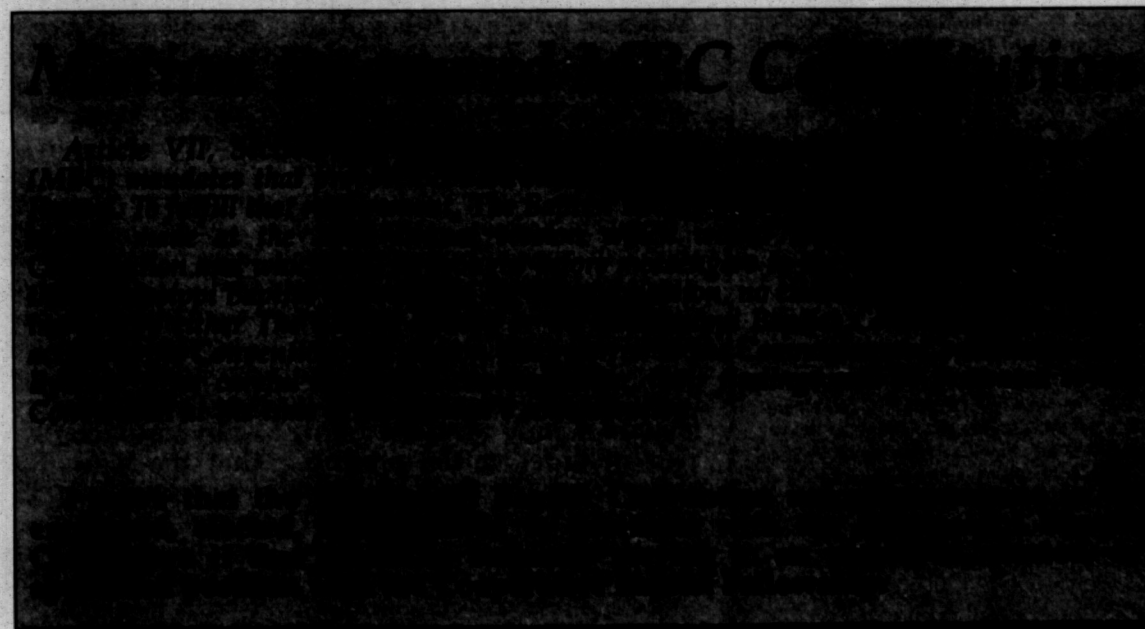
WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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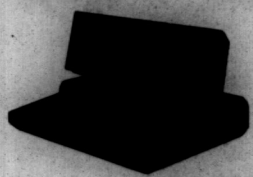
Just for the Record

Sunday School lessons

Baptist Children's Village



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Time for a change

The earth shook in California last week, but the quake didn't register on the sophisticated seismic monitors spread throughout the Golden State. That's because this temblor wasn't of the geologic kind; it was political in nature.

The election of Hollywood strongman Arnold Schwarzenegger, a conservative-to-moderate Republican and neophyte candidate, as governor of California sent shock waves through one of the most liberal states in the country. Schwarzenegger mowed down everyone else running on the ballot to replace incumbent Democrat Gray Davis, who lost his battle against recall by a wide margin.

Davis thus became only the second governor in history to be recalled by an American electorate. He joined North Dakota Governor Lynn Frazier, who was recalled in 1921 after a scandal-plagued term along with that state's attorney general and commissioner of agriculture and labor.

Liberals from San Francisco to Manhattan were stupefied by Schwarzenegger's election. Over the last several decades, they had managed to turn California into a liberal/socialist utopia. They had just about bled dry the fifth-largest economy in the world.

Davis spent his first term giving away the contents of the state treasury to liberal special interest groups like labor unions and immigrants, in an effort to purchase his reelection. It costs a lot of money to buy that many votes, and Davis nearly bankrupted the state. The constant rise in taxes has many Californians headed for the exits.

The chattering national news media was agog. The Los Angeles Times had devoted 24 reporters to dig up dirt on Schwarzenegger. When his personal life and charitable causes proved almost spotless, they resorted to printing sleazy last-minute stories of purported inappropriate conduct toward several women. Still, they couldn't derail his election.

It seems the good people of California had simply had enough of liberals' failures, always paid for with their hard-earned

money. According to voting data collected by Associated Press, nearly 60% of San Diego County voters opted for Schwarzenegger. In Orange County outside Los Angeles, 64% voted for the actor. The percentages for Schwarzenegger were said to be even higher in California's inland, non-coastal areas. Observers are predicting that the total number of people participating in the Davis recall and Schwarzenegger election may go as high as 70% of eligible voters statewide. Now that's an angry electorate.

That Californians were ready for a change is even more obvious when Schwarzenegger's campaign platform is examined. Long on cosmic ideas and short on programmatic specifics, Schwarzenegger might not have been taken seriously in any other year — but this year Californians were ready for a change.

California's decisive move may bode well for restless electorates in other states and on the national scene. California is not the only place in the country where taxes are too high and government is too unresponsive. The people of Mississippi labor under an enormous tax burden imposed by politicians who promised us a few short years ago that legalized gambling would make our economy the envy of the nation. It hasn't. Long before that, politicians promised us the same economic benefits from legalized liquor. We're still waiting.

In a matter of weeks, Mississippians will go to the polls to elect public officials ranging from county supervisor to governor. It's time for righteous Mississippians to let the politicians know that we under-

"ONE OF THESE DAYS, THE NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICIANS ARE GOING TO LEARN CHRISTIANS ARE A DIVERSE GROUP WHO DON'T ALL VOTE THE SAME WAY. I WONDER IF THEY CAN HANDLE IT!"



stand the state cannot drink and gamble its way to prosperity. It's time righteous Mississippians let them know that we understand all we have received in return for legalizing these sins are broken families and bulging graveyards.

It's time righteous Mississippians asked the politicians who covet our support how they have voted and will vote on moral issues, and also let them know that this time we intend to keep up with their votes.

It's time righteous Mississippians took back their state. As our California brethren proved last week, the place to start is at the ballot box.

GUEST OPINION:



The importance of the tithe

By **L.B. Davis**, member
Calvary Church, Tupelo

Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me know herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Nehemiah 10:38 says tithes were to be brought to the house of the Lord, to the chambers, and into the treasure house. Therefore, there is not doubt that the storehouse is the house of the Lord which is today's church.

In case come should say that the New Testament did away with this, in Matt. 23:23 Jesus said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye tithe of mint

and anise and cumin, and have omitted weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

The statement, "these ought ye to have done..." indicates that they should have tithed. (See also Luke 11:42.)

In Matthew 5:18, Jesus said, "For verily I say unto you, Till Heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tithe shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Fulfilled does not mean "done away with."

It is obvious that Jesus intended for us to tithe as well as love the Lord our God and our neighbor, and that the tithe should be given to the church

where we are members. I write all of this because of expressed opinions that one could give the tithe, all or part, to TV evangelists and other worthy causes — even designating part of the tithe to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Baptist Children's Village, etc.

To me it is plain that the tithe (10%) should be given to the church where one is a member. Money given to other worthy causes should be above the tithes and should be offerings and gifts. Also, it is my opinion that the 10% tithe should be taken from gross salary before deductions for taxes and other expenses.

After we give this tithe to the church where we are members, I think it is very important to go ahead and give to the Annie Armstrong Offering, the Lottie Moon Offering, the Baptist Children's Village, and other areas of God's work plus other charitable organizations.

We should recognize that everything we have that is good comes from God. We should strive to be good stewards of what he gives us, not only the tithe.

NOBTS trustees decline sole member status

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Seminary (NOBTS) voted unanimously Oct. 7-8 not to change its articles of incorporation to name the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) as its "sole member," making the seminary the lone SBC entity not to do so.

The board also approved a motion reaffirming its "deep and abiding commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Since the mid-1990s, the entities have been amending their respective arti-

cles of incorporation in order to make the SBC what is called in legal terms their "sole member."

Proponents of the process say that sole membership will primarily do two things. First, it will explain the legal relationship between the convention and its entities in terms with which modern courts are familiar, thus saving time, paperwork and money in court cases. Second, it will prevent an entity's board of trustees from doing what some college trustees have done in various states — breaking ties with the state convention by voting for a self-perpetuating board.

Under sole membership, SBC messengers have the same rights they have always had, such as: removing an entity's trustees, establishing their required qualifications and determining their term length. In other words, the list of sole membership rights would be limited to those historically retained by the SBC.

To accomplish sole membership an entity's board of trustees must vote to amend its articles of incorporation and SBC messengers must approve the changes.

In recent months New Orleans Seminary President Chuck

Kelley has repeatedly voiced his support for the SBC and the conservative resurgence it has undergone theologically, but he has asserted that sole membership goes against what he says is traditional Baptist polity. He has published his position in a 15-page paper posted on a seminary website.

Kelley

While SBC employees have been working with New Orleans officials on the issue for several years, this is the first time the matter has failed in a trustee board vote in any entity.

Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman expressed disappointment in the outcome. "I deeply regret that the New Orleans Seminary board of trustees has chosen to pass on this opportunity to secure that institution for SBC posterity," Chapman said in a statement. "Had the board adopted the Southern Baptist Convention as sole

member it would have legally clarified the seminary's relationship to the convention, the seminary's parent corporation and benefactor.

"More importantly, as sole member, the Southern Baptist Convention could have more easily protected the Cooperative Program, the financial lifeline for all of our entities, from the avarice of today's new breed of aggressive litigators."

Chapman said a paper would be posted soon on www.baptist2baptist.net explaining the history of Baptist polity and the reasons behind sole membership. "While we have never yet been shown any deficiencies in the sole membership corporate model," he wrote, "we can understand how misperceptions can persist, so perhaps further discourse among Southern Baptists can afford a comfort with, and an understanding of, sole membership's many benefits."

Kelley, in his paper, said he believes in the "objective behind the recommendation" but has "a profound problem with the proposed solution." He backs the current model of relationship between the seminary and the convention — what he calls "organizational autonomy."

Chapman

Under this, he said, all entities are on a "level plane." In that model, Kelley said, the convention has what Kelley calls "decisive influence" — it elects trustees who then influence seminary policy, but it does not have "operational control."

"To take such a step could start a fundamental change in historic Baptist polity and compromise our practice of organizational autonomy, one of the three major characteristics of our Baptist identity," he wrote.

Organizational autonomy was used to drive the conserva-

tive resurgence, Kelley argued. "It took more than ten years, but the process worked," he wrote. "Conservatives did it the Baptist way. The most profound and significant course correction in the history of American Christianity was not a hard and fast power play, but rather a long, slow application of Baptist polity by Baptist people working to address a Baptist problem in a Baptist way."

The seminary board had expressed concern over the role the Executive Committee might play. In response, a paper written by convention lawyers explained that under sole membership the Executive Committee cannot act for the SBC in exercising the convention's sole membership rights.

"Ecclesiastically, the Executive Committee's ad interim authority to act for the Convention is

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SWBTS prof dies

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Robert L. Burton, distinguished professor emeritus of conducting in the Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) school of church music in Ft. Worth, died Oct. 8 after a brief bout with cancer. He was 78 years old. Born in Little Rock, Ark., Burton served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, then entered Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge on a full scholarship and completed his undergraduate education including a master of music degree. He also earned a doctor



Burton

of music degree with distinction from Indiana University. While at LSU, Burton served as minister of music at Immanuel Church in Baton Rouge and led the Baton Rouge Symphony, and conducted company choruses for the Esso Standard Oil and Ethyl Corporation. He later served as the first fulltime minister of music for First Church in Brookhaven, and the first fulltime minister of music at First Church in Memphis. Burton came to SWBTS in 1954 where he served as chairman of the music education department until his appointment to the chair of the conducting department in 1958. He served in that capacity until he retired in 1990. In 1989, Burton was appointed distinguished professor of conducting in the school of church music. In 1990, the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference presented Burton with the Lifetime Membership Award. After 11 years of retirement, he assumed a post as a visiting professor of music at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., for the 2001-02 academic year. Southwestern Seminary inaugurated the Robert L. Burton Chair of Conducting in 2001 as the endowed chair in the music school.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptist pastor Robert Fortenberry and his wife Margaret are among 30 people appointed missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board (FMB). The Fortenberrys have been assigned to Zimbabwe, where her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Hugh McKinley, also serve as FMB missionaries.

20 years ago

Jim Lowder, pastor of Delores Street Church in San Francisco, is reprimanded by the Home Mission Board (HMB). Lowder, his wife, and nine other church members were arrested for protesting at a nuclear facility and giving their collective names as "Southern Baptist Convention." The Lowders are HMB appointees.

50 years ago

George E. Jefcoat, one-time pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Boston Braves in the National League, leaves under license from his local church and enters formal ministerial training at New Orleans Seminary.

Larry Cox to speak at Lay Missions Conf.

The 2003 Mississippi Baptist Lay Missions Conference will begin at 3 p.m. on October 27 at First Church, Jackson, and conclude after the 5 p.m. missions banquet which will feature keynote speaker Larry Cox, a Mississippi native and vice-president



Cox

for mobilization at the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va. Special music for the conference will be provided by Pure Gospel from First Church, Madison.

Interest conferences that will kick off at 3 p.m. include Agricultural Missions, Educational Missions, Volunteers in Missions, Construction Missions, Campers on Mission, Chronological Bible Storytelling, Disaster Relief Childcare (Introduction), and Lay Church Planting Forum.

Tickets to the 5 p.m. banquet are \$8.50 per person. The deadline for purchasing tickets is October 23. For more information, contact the Men's Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

The Lay Missions Conference is supported each year by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

THE COMING CONVENTION

In just days, Mississippi Baptists will converge on Jackson at the First Baptist Church for the 168th Convention. The Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting is a special time of gathering for God's people. Wouldn't it be incredible if all of us could meet together at one time? What a sight that would be — about three quarters of a million people singing, praying, hearing, and heeding God's Word! But, since we all can't come together, each of our cooperating churches can send from one to ten messengers to participate and share in the blessings. You do not have to be an elected messenger to attend and we always have a number of folks who just love being a part of the fellowship.

The convention event has changed over the years. Can you imagine what it must have been like over 150 years ago when travel ranged from difficult to virtually impossible? Now, anybody in the state can arrive at the convention site in just a morning's drive.

Another change that has taken place over the past four or five decades is that we have gone from a four-day convention, to a three-day convention, and then on to a two-day convention. While there are numerous preliminary meetings which take place, including the Pastors' Conference, Ministers' Wives Conference, mission meetings and a mission banquet, etc., one thing that has remained throughout the years is that the Mississippi Baptist Convention is a time of fellowship, inspiration, encouragement, and information. But, while the convention was and is all of these things, let me focus our attention on the heart of our gathering as Mississippi Baptists.

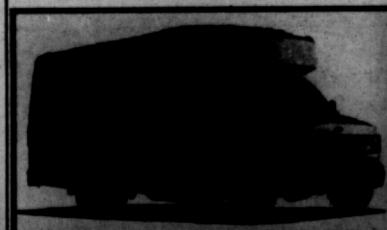
• We must keep in mind that we gather to take care of



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

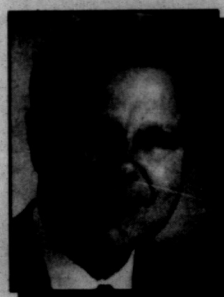
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Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

business. At the convention important business will be done as we elect trustees who become the guardians of those ministries, institutions, and agencies that have been entrusted to them. We elect leaders who will give guidance and encouragement. We will hear of plans, programs, projections, and possibilities that will enhance our efforts to reach a world for Christ.

• We will do business, but it must also be remembered that it is not just doing business — but that this is **God's business.** When we come together as a convention, we are governed by the guidelines of our Constitution and Bylaws and by Robert's Rules of Order. Now, in my opinion, that is not sufficient or even accurate. We should be governed in our deliberations, our relationships, and in the decisions we make by the Lord Himself! Christ-like behavior and conduct is far more superior than Robert's Rules. Whatever we do is not just a reflection on the individual or the body itself, but our conduct reflects on our Lord. It is His business that we are dealing with and we should represent Him well!

According to Scripture, we are to take care of God's business decently and in order. We should follow the Scriptural imperative that we, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath for-

given us." There are always important matters of business that need to be transacted, but we should never forget that whatever we are dealing with is more important to God than even to us. And additionally, we should keep in mind that the world discovers more of what we think about the Lord in the way we act than in what we tell them about Him.

• We will come together not just to do business, but we will be involved in implementing **God's Kingdom business.** What Mississippi Baptists do with our programs, our mission plans, and our budgets literally impacts a world that needs to know Jesus! The dollars that flow from all of our churches through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board literally touch the state, the nation, and the world. Of the dollars that are sent to the Convention, 45.01% goes beyond us to missionaries across the 49 other states and around the world to over 5,000 missionaries.

Now, what happens to the 54.99% that stays in Mississippi? Well, look at this picture:

• \$6,057,095 goes to the support of our three colleges where over 6,000 young people are studying, preparing for life, and many of them preparing for ministry.

• Over \$389,560 goes directly to help students in our three colleges preparing for ministry.

• Over \$1,612,654 touches the lives of students on 34 campuses across Mississippi.

• Over a half million dollars goes to help care for kids by the ministry of the Baptist Children's Village.

• Some of the money is channeled to help aging pastors and staff members who are not cared for in retirement and some of the money finds its way directly into caring for a family of a pastor or a staff member who has been terminated.

• Part of the money flows into the programs, helps, and resources that are provided for your church whether it is in Stewardship, Discipleship Training, Sunday School, Evangelism, leadership training, church planting, mission involvement, children's ministry, legal issues, or youth work.

When we come to be a part of the Convention, it may last only two days, but the impact of what you do is Kingdom impact (God's Kingdom business), and it spans the 365 days of the year. While I wish that all of you could come, I know some of you may not be able to attend. If you cannot be present, please pray as the Convention convenes and is in session. Please read, listen, and discover what God is doing through our Mississippi Baptist Convention. Then, when or where opportunities may avail themselves for you to be a part of God's Kingdom business, grab hold, and make a difference!

SMALLEY RELATIONSHIP CENTER PRESENTS

Love
Romance
AND SEX
It's all God's idea!

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

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OCTOBER 24 – 25, 2003

Friday 6:00-9:30, Saturday 8:30 – 3:30

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Call (601) 583-1743 for more information

Featured Guest:

Steven Curtis Chapman, Dr. Gary Smalley, Dr. Kevin Leman,
Dr Greg Smalley, Wellington Boone, & Ken Davis

TICKETS: \$45/Couple w/children: \$35/Couple w/o children.
Childcare and Lunch provided. Deadline October 19, 2003!

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 16, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

**Attention Bivo Ministers:
DON'T MISS THESE TWO EVENTS!**

State Convention Breakfast Fellowship for Bivocational Ministers & Wives

**Wednesday, October 29, 2003
7-8 a.m.**

Baptist Building Chapel

*Breakfast is compliments of
Pastor/Leadership Development Department.*

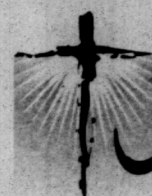
Convention Meeting of the Mississippi Council on Bivo Ministries

**Immediately after the close of the last convention
session on Wednesday morning
in Room 309, Baptist Building**

*Lunch is compliments of
Pastor/Leadership Development Department.*

**All bivocational ministers and spouses are invited
to both meetings.**

*Please RSVP your attendance by calling
Matt Buckles at 800-748-1651, ext. 308
or by E-mail at mbuckles@mbcb.org,
or by fax at 601-714-7426.*



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

**Missions Mobilization
CELEBRATION**
November 14-15, 2003



Friday, November 14

FBC, Jackson, 425 North State Street

- Celebration Banquet – 6:30 p.m.
- Mobilization Displays
- Music/Testimonies
- **Strategic Contributions
of Volunteers**

- Rick Hancock MD/DE
- Special Guest from East Asia



**Rick
Hancock**

Saturday, November 15

Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street

- Continental Breakfast – 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
- Devotional
- Cluster group meetings
 - 1) Ukraine
 - 2) North America
 - 3) China

*You are invited to this exciting time of celebrating what
God is doing through Mississippi volunteers. You will
meet and hear the stories of many of these volunteers.*

Banquet Cost: \$10

Reservations required by November 11.

Call 601-292-3398 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 398.

RESERVATION FORM

**Partnership Missions Celebration
November 14-15, 2003**

Name _____

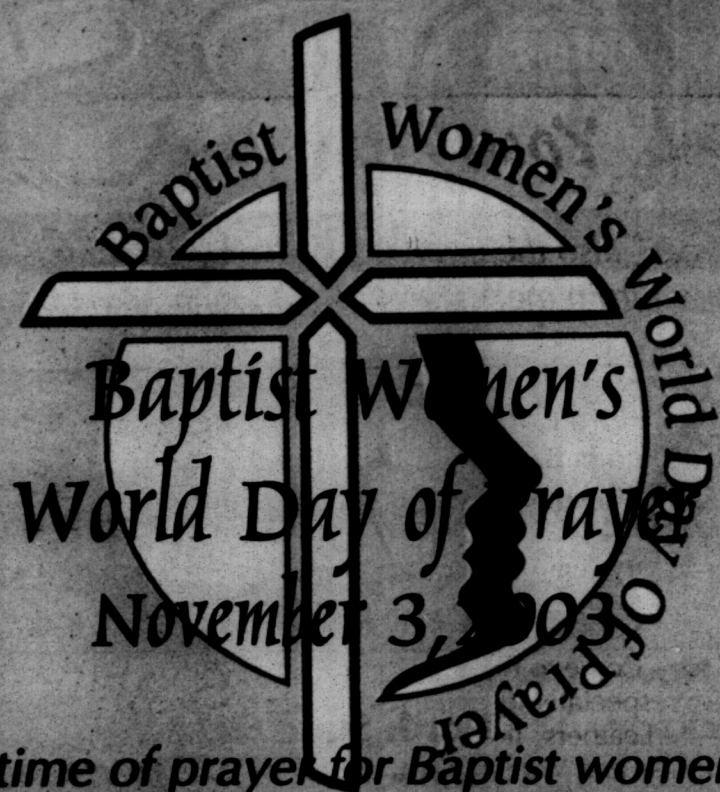
Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

No. of Reservations _____

**Please complete form and mail to:
MBCB, Missions Mobilization Department
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530**



A time of prayer for Baptist women of all cultures, ethnic backgrounds and races. This year's program highlights several types of prayer and ways of praying as participants pray for needs around the world.

You may download the program material from the Web:

www.bwanet.org, or you may contact Mississippi WMU for program materials at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3319.

THE SUIT PROJECT

Mississippi Baptists say "Merry Christmas" to pastors in the Alaska, Hawaii, and Iowa Conventions.

What is it?

For over 39 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.

What can you do?

Men's Ministry, RA, and WMU groups, individuals, churches, etc., can send their gifts payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Attention: Men's Ministry Department
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Cost: \$130 per suit
Designate on your check: Suit Project

For more info, contact the Men's Ministry Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3335



SPECIAL MINISTRY FOR THE PASTORS' WIVES
If funds are available, we will send clothing gift certificates for the wives.

*One Voice
in Worship
November 17*



Discern the Jesus

9 a.m. - noon - Cost \$10

2004 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY

PRELIMINARY

DOCTRINE STUDY

BRANCH AND PRELIMINARY

January 19

First Baptist Church, Biloxi

January 20

Vita Woods Baptist Church, Jackson

January 22

First Baptist Church, Starkville

State Literacy Missions Workshop

**November 13-15
Camp Garaywa, Clinton**



Choose from:

- English as a Second Language (New)
- English as a Second Language (Experienced)
- Adult Reading and Writing
- Tutoring Children and Youth
- Chronological Bible Storying

Registration Deadline:
October 24th

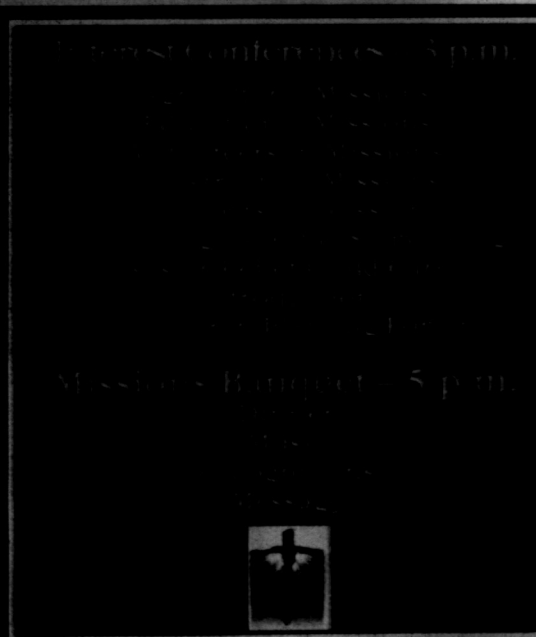


MY LIFE • MY MISSION

**Missions Banquet
Keynote Speaker**

Larry Cox
Vice President
Office of Mobilization, IMB

Special Music
Pure Gospel
First Baptist Church, Madison



Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Women's Track - State Evangelism Conference

Tell Your Story

Jesus said, "I am the road, also the truth, also the life. No one gets to the Father apart from me." The Message, John 14:6

MISSISSIPPI STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
One State Evangelism Conference with Two Tracks
Country Woods Baptist Church, Byram
Monday and Tuesday, January 26-27, 2004

The Mississippi WMU Visionary Team and the host church will welcome you.

1:30 p.m. Monday, Women's Track in the Fellowship Hall
Come to the Party!
designed especially for ministers' spouses
Laura Leathers, Teatime Treasures
Praise and Worship Music by
Mandisa Hundley, vocalist for Beth Moore's Praise Team

3 p.m. Monday, Women's Track in the Fellowship Hall
Parties with a Purpose
Page Hughes, Anchor Deep Ministries
Music - Mandisa Hundley
Testimony: How We Lived While Dying - 'Wilda Fancher
Prayer Time

5 p.m. Dinner break on your own

6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Session
All together for the State Evangelism Conference in the Worship Center

9 a.m. Tuesday, Women's Track in the Fellowship Hall
Testimony: God's Unconditional Love - Corinne Gillentine
Music - Mandisa Hundley
Unveiled to Victory
Page Hughes
Prayer Time

11:30 a.m. Lunch break on your own

1:30 p.m. Women's Track in the Fellowship Hall
Testimony: My Passion - Cyndi Grace
Prayer Time
Music - Mandisa Hundley
Tell Your Story
Page Hughes

Closing commitment music by Mandisa Hundley



Page
Hughes



Mandisa
Hundley



Laura
Leathers



'Wilda
Fancher



Corinne
Gillentine



Cyndi
Grace

RESERVATION FORM (DEADLINE: OCTOBER 23, 2003)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ dinner reservations at \$8.50 per person.

Please complete form and mail to: MBCB, Men's Ministry Department
Lay Missions Banquet, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530
For more info: Call Men's Ministry at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3334

For more info: Call Miss. WMU at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3319

Pray this day for...

October 17 - November 13, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

FAILURE TO INTERCEDE IS A SIN -
"As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23).

Ugandan believers use the Scripture as a literal model for what they are doing in their daily lives. In planting new churches, it gives some men a sense of restlessness. They don't stay and rest where a church starts. Pray for the Jagadola Christians of Eastern Uganda that they will continue to follow the example of Jesus and go to "the nearby villages to preach the gospel."

For: (1) Mission Service Corps' Annual Meeting (MM); (2) Pray that the violence and unrest will quickly subside and peace will be restored in Iraq. Pray that Iraqis will come to experience not only physical peace, but also the spiritual peace that only Jesus brings.

For: (1) Voter Awareness: Pray that every citizen will make an effort to vote on election day. (CAC Emphasis); (2) Pray as the leadership of the Baptist Convention in Angola attempts to mobilize the whole evangelical community towards having a large evangelistic crusade next July in Luanda and around the country.

Mississippi Baptists touch others in need by being Jesus' hands and feet in many different ways. Over 200 trained volunteers minister to those in crisis through Disaster Relief. CWJC focuses on women caught in a cycle of poverty and offers witness and mentoring. Pray for these and other ministries of our state convention.

Veteran missionaries in Brazil, Vic and Sharon Johnston, will soon be moving to a new area. During a recent survey trip to the area, Vic met a colony of fishermen who live nearby. After meeting with 29 men on a Sunday morning, 28 of them asked Vic to return and begin meeting with them on a weekly basis to teach the Bible to them. Pray that they will have receptive hearts.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (2) Ministers' Wives Conference, FBC, Jackson, 1-2:45 p.m. (P/LD); (3) Lay Missions Conference, FBC, Jackson, 3-5 p.m. (MM); (4) Lay Missions Banquet, FBC, Jackson, 5-7 p.m. (MM)

For: (1) Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer (WMU Emphasis); (2) Senior Adult Leadership Lab, FBC, Columbia, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (D&FM); (3) Ask God to continue to guide as new "Chronological Bible Storying" tapes are being made in Uruguay to share with those who do not read. Pray that they can start being used soon.

For: (1) Youth Minister's Workshop, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, 1:30 p.m., 10th - 10 a.m., 12th (Youth Team); (2) Pray that the completion of the first railroad into Tibet by 2005 will accelerate the spread of the gospel in Tibet and not the cultural destruction feared by many Tibetans.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (2) Pray for all Saudi Arabians to have real encounters with Jesus. Pray for the light of Jesus to continue to break through the darkness of Islam.

For: (1) Chaplains' Association Annual Fall Banquet, Baptist Building, Sky Room, Jackson, 4:45 - 6:30 p.m. (CPD); (2) Association of Missions Directors' & Seminary Extension Directors' Breakfast, Baptist Building Chapel, Jackson, 7 - 8 a.m. (P/LD); (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC, Jackson, 28th & 29th.

For: (1) Senior Adult Leadership Lab, FBC, Natchez, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Pray that God will give His peace to those who are concerned about the failing physical and/or mental health of missionaries' parents, spouses or other family members.

Pray for Christian college students as they are being challenged to know exactly what they believe and how to share their beliefs with their non-Christian friends. It's difficult to argue with someone who accepts everything, but isn't willing to accept Christianity because [they believe] it's too exclusive.

Ask God to keep missionaries of Eastern Africa focused on those people who still have not heard the Good News of Christ. Pray that God would break down the barriers to any of the people groups that keep them enslaved to sin and do not allow them to hear or understand the gospel.

For: (1) Bivo Ministers'/Ministers' Wives Breakfast, Baptist Building Chapel, 7-8 a.m. (P/LD); (2) MBCB, immediately following the last session of the convention; (3) Prime Minister Mucumbi of Mozambique.

For: (1) Baptist Building STAFF AT HOME DAYS, 5th - 7th; (2) Pray that God would strengthen families and marriages so that they might be testimonies to His glory. Pray that those couples dealing with the "empty nest" might have wisdom in making these adjustments.

Pray for LifeWay as it helps churches establish a presence on the World Wide Web through LifeWayLink. Churches that have Web sites can use them to share prayer requests and to influence people who don't attend church services or Sunday School regularly.

For: (1) MBRA Meeting, Hattiesburg, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Barna Seminar, Ridgeland BC, Ridgeland (CG); (3) The Hausa people of Niger Republic, who are devoted Muslims, do not give validity to what missionaries say. Pray that God will intervene in their hearts to draw them to His Truth.

Ted Keller is lead chaplain of Transport for Christ, in Columbia, S.C. Pray as he ministers to truck drivers who visit the chapel which is open daily. Pray for Ted and Tammy, his wife, as they raise their financial support as MSC missionaries.

For: (1) Campers on Missions Rally, Gulfshore, 6th - 9th (MM); (2) Monty Hale is the leadership development specialist for the Missouri Convention. Pray for God to raise up 209 "Next Level Leaders" that will revitalize churches that have plateaued or are declining in Missouri.

For: (1) State Literacy Event, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 13th - 15th (WMU); (2) Pray that China's government leaders will see the church as God's blessing to China.

For: (1) Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 5 p.m., 17th - 2 p.m., 18th (WMU); (2) Daphne Hodges, Austin, Texas, is the site coordinator for the Christian Women's Job Corps. Pray for Daphne as she seeks mature Christian women who will mentor their participants in the fall session.

Praise the Lord that His Presence was felt as missionaries gathered from all over West Africa in July. The theme was "Living to Please God." Pray that those who made commitments to the Lord will remain faithful to carry them out. Pray that many West Africans will come to know Christ in a personal way as missionaries live out their faith in word and deed.

V., of the Dominican Republic, professed faith in Christ after a volunteer team had worked in his barrio, and has been an active leader in helping start new churches ever since. Pray for V. as he helps young people whose lives are twisted by drug and alcohol abuse, and for his continued spiritual growth.

Pray for the worsening economic condition of Zimbabwe. Because prices have gone up tens of times in the last year and because many are afraid to deposit their money in banks there is a severe shortage of cash money. This is causing problems for the Overspill Baptist Church Quilting Project. Pray that creative ways to pay them will be found.

For: (1) International Students' Conference, Camp Garaywa, 6 p.m., 7th - 1 p.m., 8th (CLGM); (2) Pray today for missionaries who are in full time language study and for those who have recently moved to the area where they are serving. Pray that they might not become discouraged.

Recently, the Colombia Deaf Team prayer video was shown at a conference for the deaf. The response to the video is opening the door to many deaf interested in joining volunteer teams. Pray for them to answer God's call to help plant churches in Colombia.

The Hui are one of 10 Muslim Chinese minorities. Today they number 8 to 10 million and can be found almost everywhere in China. There are an estimated 50 Hui Christians. God's Spirit is working among the Hui, and more and more of them are giving Him the glory He deserves. Pray for His Kingdom to continue to grow among the Hui.

For: (1) GA Missions Madness, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (WMU); (2) Barbara Galloway, Casper, is the director of women's missions/ministry for the Wyoming Convention. Pray for wisdom as she makes decisions about the areas of ministry she directs, and for volunteers to be called to serve in Wyoming.



GA Missions Madness
"PARTY ON 1913 ..."
Saturday, November 8, 2003
Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

On Saturday, November 8, all GAs (1st - 6th grade girls) and leaders in our state are invited to a GA Missions Madness Event - "Party on 1913 ..."

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The opening session begins at 9:30 a.m. The event ends at 4 p.m. **The early registration deadline is Oct. 24.** The cost is \$5 per person.

For more info, contact the WMU Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson. Registration form can be found at www.mbcb.org. **Please register early so we can be better prepared for your arrival!**

4-86
MISS KATIE R. GRAY
 Parents: Tony & Karen,
 Church Planting
 Eastern South America

6-88
MISS MARISA M. WOMBLE
 Parents: Freddie & Karen
 Church Planting
 Eastern South America

14-85
MR. ALLEN D. LIGHTSEY
 Parents: Timothy & Rebecca
 Literature Distribution, Middle America

21-02
MISS ABIGAIL L. PATTERSON
 Parents: Timothy & Dorcas
 Strategy Coordinator, Middle America



Child's name and parent's name
 MBCC Stewardship Department
 P.O. Box 530
 Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

HOMILCOMINGS & REVIVALS

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Oct. 19; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will follow; Bill Hubson, former pastor, speaking; local talent, music; all are welcome.

Liberty, Carrollton: Oct. 17-19; youth revival; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Curt Lyles, Crossgates, Brandon, speaking; Tom Edwards and Company, music; Crossgates drama team, guest appearance.

Benton, Yazoo: Oct. 19; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; John Patterson, former pastor speaking; D. J. Speckner, pastor; David Westbrook, minister of music.

Pleasant Hill, Ashland: Oct. 19-22; Russell Cook, Trinity, Lenoir City, N. C., speaking; Eddie Martin, pastor.

Zion Hill, Wesson: Oct. 26; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner at noon; Jerome McLendon, Hazlehurst, speaking; Tony Hinton, Petal, music; Tom McCormick, pastor.

Enon, North Central: Oct. 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; preaching, 11 a.m.; food and fellowship will follow; Don Montgomery, music.

Briarwood, Meridian: Oct. 17-19; Fri., fish fry at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., breakfast at 8:30 a.m., worship will follow; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. with potluck to follow; Mitch Martin, preaching; Jamie Lamoreaux, pastor; for more information, call (601) 681-6615.

Walker Hill, Brandon: Oct. 19-22; Sunday, 10 a.m., a covered dish lunch will be served, afternoon worship will follow; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Daryl Oster, evangelist; E. C. Harp, music; Ronnie Purser, pastor.

New Hope, Sumrall: Oct. 26; 170th anniversary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; afternoon worship, 1:15 p.m.; Charles Broome and Roy Davis, leading worship; Richard Hamilton, pastor.

Sandersville, Sandersville: Oct. 19; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; H. D. "Bud" Swindall, former pastor, speaking; Donnie Parker, pastor.

Mt. Moriah, Lincoln: Oct. 26; Old Fashioned Day; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner and afternoon activities will follow; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Lincoln, speaking; Danny Moss, pastor.

Evansville, Coldwater: Nov. 9; worship, 10 a.m.; Bernette Fielder, speaking; One Way, music.

First, Pearl: 50th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; fellowship, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m.; dinner will follow; John Brock, preaching; Jim Lott, music; for more information, call (601) 939-4476.

Grace, Calhoun: Oct. 19-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. with lunch at noon, 6 p.m.; Mon-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bufors Usry,

evangelist; Janice Storment, pianist; Jean Sharpe, music director; Carl Morris, pastor.

Leesburg, Morton: Nov. 2; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner will follow; Julius Thompson, speaking; Jeff Jones, worship.

Mt. Pleasant, Bogue Chitto: Nov. 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish will be served at noon; music, 1:30 p.m.; Gayle Alexander, former pastor, preaching; Tom Moak, music; Anthony Yarborough, pastor.

Eastview, Laurel: Nov. 2; 100th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bob Kendrick, speaking; Perry Robinson, music; a covered dish lunch will follow; afternoon singing with the Myers Family, 1:30 p.m.

Mt. Vernon, West: Oct. 19; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow; singing, 1 p.m.; Al Different, preaching.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

A retirement reception will be held for **Marion Holley**, celebrating 45 years of ministry on October 18 from 6-8 p.m. at Union Chapel Church, Lee. For more information, call (662) 767-9209.

Trinity Church, Laurel, will hold a reception for **Hardy Denham**, commemorating 50 years of service in church ministry, on October 26 from 2-4 p.m.

Charlie Cooper recently retired from the pastorate at Rienzi Church, Rienzi. He is available for pulpit supply, interim, and revivals. Cooper can be reached at (662) 462-5325 or (662) 286-9178.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Judgement House will be held October 25-27 from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. at **First Church, Rolling Fork**. Call (662) 873-2862 for reservations.

Roundaway Church, Doddsville, will hold a new addition dedication on October 18. A meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the program will begin at 12:45 p.m. For more information, call (662) 887-6019.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will hold a community sing on October 18. Solid Rock are the featured musicians. Call (662) 895-2661 for more information.

Johnny Parrack will be in concert on October 25 at 7 p.m. at Antioch Church, Columbus. Admission is free. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (662) 328-4765 or (662) 328-4767.

Goodwater Church, Magee, will host Don't Date Naked: Put on God's Armor live via satellite on October 23. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the simulcast will be from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The deadline to sign up for the meal is October 20. For more information and to register, call (601) 849-2245 or visit www.small-eyonline.com.

COLLEGE NEWS

The **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon** will be held October 28 at noon at the Steam Room Grill, Jackson. C. Berry Driver Jr. will be speaking. Tickets are \$12. Reservations may be made by calling (662) 232-2766 or by mailing a check to Brain Bailey, 33 Hwy. 9 West, Oxford, MS 38655.

The **Mississippi College (MC) Naturals** will present the annual **Holiday Spectacular** November 14, 15, and 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall, B.C. Rodgers Student Center, Mississippi

College. Area children have been selected to participate in this year's program. Tickets are \$20 and include dinner and the show. Students with an MC I.D. receive a \$5 discount. Children 12 and under are \$15. To reserve tickets, call (601) 925-3856 or e-mail naturals@mc.edu.



MC Naturals

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ATTENTION PASTORS, STAFF, EVENT coordinators. "Celebrate The Family," worship and conferences featuring singer, speaker, musical ventriloquist, Lee Pitts Spooner. Banquets, confer-

ences, and retreats. For free video call (251) 660-7628.

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HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

FIRST BAPTIST CABOT, ARKANSAS is accepting resumes for senior pastor. Cabot is located in the metro area of Little Rock, with a population of 42,000 within 8 miles of town. Average Sunday School attendance is 950-1000. Please send resumes to Bob Duke, First Baptist Church Cabot, P.O. Box 1023, Cabot, AR 72023.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY, TWO/BR. 2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway. \$65/night. Call for information at (251) 666-2175.

at (228) 255-6888.

LEESVILLE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: Full-time youth and recreation minister. Send resumes with photo to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446; or email fbcleesville@wnonline.net.

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THE MISSISSIPPI SHERIFF'S BOYS and **Girls Ranches, Inc.**, currently seeking a married couple for full-time house parents. If interested, call (662) 327-7555 or send resume to: The Mississippi Sheriff's Boys and Girls Ranches, Inc., P.O. Box 1428, Columbus, Ms 39703.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, Miss., is looking for a part-time associate minister to help meet the needs of this caring church with outreach programs and homebound ministry. For more information, contact Dr. Greg Wolfe, pastor, P.O. Box 13675, Jackson, MS 39236. Phone (601) 368-2983.

PRAYING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH minister for our growing youth group. If you have a heart for youth and want to join God where He is working, send a resume to New Prospect Baptist Church, 2197 Hwy 25, Iuka, MS 38852.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS position. Send resumes to minister of students search committee, Grace Memorial Baptist Church, 2412 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN Meridian is seeking a full-time associate pastor of youth and education. Please send resumes or letters of interest to New Hope Baptist Church, attention search committee, 6573 Highway 145 South, Meridian, MS 39301.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Spirit Empowers Believers

Romans 8:12-16, 26-30, 35-39

By Jon Daniels

Do you remember Vasily Alexeyev? When I was a child, I was fascinated by this massive man from the Soviet Union who was an incredible weightlifter. In 1970, he turned 28 years old, and by the end of that year, had captured 27 world records. For the next seven years, this giant of a man totally dominated the sport of weightlifting, jerking well over 500 pounds over his head on numerous occasions. The power he possessed in his body was mind-boggling.

The power that resides in us as Christians may not enable us to be world-class weightlifters, but it will give us what we need to live in such a way to please our heavenly Father. It truly is mind-boggling to consider that the same power that brought Jesus

out of the tomb is the power that is in our lives through the Holy Spirit!

THE TESTIMONY OF THE SPIRIT - 8:12-16

As believers, we are not "obligated to the flesh." We owe no debt to the flesh, nor are we bound to it in any way. Our flesh has done nothing of real value for us. Other verses in Romans 8 show us that our flesh is under sin's domain (v. 3); has a mind-set of death (v. 6, 13); is hostile to God (v. 7); is unable to please God (v. 8).

We are, however, obligated to the Spirit. He has set us free from sin and death and given us life and peace (v. 13). He has made us God's sons (v. 14) as we receive the spirit of adoption into God's family (v. 15).

When we come into God's family, the Spirit "testifies togeth-

er with our spirit that we are God's children" (v. 16). He bears witness that we are God's children, quickening our hearts with the perfect knowledge and the complete confidence that we are God's children.

Oswald Chambers said, "Why doesn't the Spirit reveal Himself to you? He cannot. It is not that He will not, but He cannot, because you are in the way as long as you won't abandon yourself to Him in total surrender." [Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oct. 22 devotional.] If the testimony of the Spirit is not present in your life, examine yourself "to see whether you are in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5).

THE INTERCESSION OF THE SPIRIT - 8:26-30

We all experience those times in our lives when we feel so weak in our spiritual lives. Instead of Vasily Alexeyev, we find ourselves more like the 90-pound weakling getting sand kicked in our faces!

The good news is that the Spirit is there for us in the most difficult times of our lives, interceding for us "when we do not know what to pray for as we should" (v. 26). When we face the most difficult struggles in our lives, we have the great resource of Spirit-led prayer available for us.

The Spirit helps us in our times of trial. He helps us in our times of prayer. He helps us know the will of God (v. 27), leading us in our prayer life to pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15).

As the Spirit intervenes in our lives, He reminds of us the great truth of Romans 8:28 that God is at work in our lives — in good times and bad — to do His good in our lives. The Spirit reminds us that it is God's purpose for us to know Him, to be conformed to the image of Jesus (v. 29). It is God's purpose call us, save us, sanctify us, justify us, and glorify us (v. 30).

THE PERSUASION OF THE SPIRIT - 8:35-39

One of the great works of the Spirit in our lives is that of persuading and convincing us that nothing will separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. There are very few things in our lives which are more comforting and encouraging than knowing how secure we are in the love of God.

Nothing can defeat a follower of Christ. As Henry Blackaby states, "When Christ lives in you, He brings every divine resource with Him. Every time you face a need, you meet it with the presence of the crucified, risen, and triumphant Lord of the universe inhabiting you." [Henry Blackaby, study note in *Experiencing the Word New Testament*, pg. 359.] The Spirit within us persuades us that this is true.

We are empowered by the testimony of the Spirit, the intercession of the Spirit, and the persuasion of the Spirit. Let us recommit our lives to living lives that exhibit His power!

Daniels is pastor of Monticello Church, Monticello.



Daniels

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Christian Peers

Philemon 1-25

By Laura Russell

In the introduction to Philemon from *The Message* it says: "Every movement we make in response to God has a ripple effect, touching family, neighbors, friends, community. Belief in God alters our language. Love of God affects daily relationships. Hope in God enters into our work. None of these movements and responses, beliefs and prayers can be confined to the soul. They spill out and make history. Philemon and Onesimus, the slave owner and slave who figure prominently in the letter from Paul, had no idea that believing in Jesus would involve them in radical social change. But as the two of them were brought together by this letter, it did. And it still does." I'd like for us to look at the three main characters in the let-

ter and learn from them how believers are to treat one another as equals in Christ.

PAUL:

Paul was very good at remembering his friends in his private prayers. We must remember Christian friends — a lot and often. We must remember them in our thoughts and hearts before God. Paul always inquired about his friends, their growth in their spiritual walk, their faith in Christ, and their love to him and all other believers. This epistle to Philemon is Paul's personal plea for a slave to whom Paul had witnessed and who had come to faith in Christ. Paul was now taking it upon himself to reintroduce Onesimus to Philemon not as slave to owner, but as equals in Christ. Because Paul was an elder and an apostle, he could



Russell

have demanded that Philemon deal kindly with Onesimus, but Paul argues from love rather than authority. He bases his request on Philemon's Christian commitment, not on his authority. Paul wanted Philemon's heartfelt obedience. Paul is providing a good example of how to deal with conflict between Christian friends: not demanding but appealing in love. Paul is also showing us that no matter what our station in life, belief in Christ puts everyone on equal ground.

PHILEMON:

Not much is known about Philemon except that he was a wealthy Greek landowner living in Colosse. He was converted by Paul, he was a member of the church in Colosse, and the church met in his home. In this letter, Paul speaks of Philemon's kindness, love, and comfort because he had opened his home to the church. It is because of Philemon's Christian commitment that Paul feels he can make an appeal to him. Philemon is a

slave owner who had experienced the unthinkable — his slave had run away. In the New Testament, slavery was a fact of life. There were tens of thousands of people who never knew freedom. Slavery was a position of society in that day, and the master had absolute power over his slaves. Therefore, a master had a legal right to kill a runaway, and even if he was not killed, he would have an "F" (for fugitive) branded on his forehead. In this letter, Paul wasn't condoning or condemning slavery, but was working to transform a relationship. This is a great example of how the Gospel changes people and when people are changed, social structures will begin to change. Paul very tactfully asks Philemon to accept and forgive his servant, to accept and forgive him as a believer in the faith. Since believers are equals in Christ, we are to accept and treat others as He did.

ONESIMUS:

Onesimus had run away from Philemon and made his way to Rome where he had met Paul. Obviously, Paul had led

him to Christ and had convinced Onesimus that running away from his problems wouldn't solve them. Paul convinced Onesimus to return to his master, but Onesimus feared for his life. So Paul wrote to his friend Philemon to help him understand that Onesimus was now a brother in Christ, not just a possession. What a difference Onesimus' status as a Christian made in his relationship to Philemon. Now both of them were members of God's family — equals in Christ. Onesimus realized that he had wronged his master and that he needed to make things right with him. Paul then became the go-between. He personally guaranteed payment of anything for which Onesimus might be responsible. Don't you know that Paul's faith and belief in Onesimus was a great encouragement to this new believer? We as Christians need to also show such faith and belief in new converts, regardless of their social status or station in life.

Russell is member of First Church, McComb.

Call for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special interest to the Baptist community in Mississippi. Please place in copy-submission envelope the following information:

News submitted for publication should be (a) typed on one side of the page, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11 paper, or (c) neatly printed on standard forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JUNE 1 - 30, 2003

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Analysis: Scripture exposes false prophets

By Justin Peters
Correspondent

Fourth and final in a series

Bibliocipher

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JKW EBJNA RB: LDF EADI
JFE EAB HDW DL RP
OJFSJEZDK; DK EABB WD
Z QIZE JUU EAB WJP.

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Clue: L = F

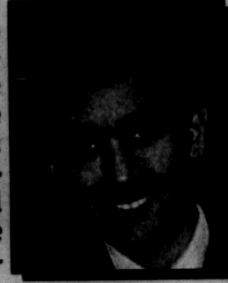
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 1:5

Both the Old and New Testaments are replete with warnings of false prophets. The following is intended to provide biblical criteria for discerning false prophets and teachers. If a preacher engages in any of the following behaviors, be very wary of him or her:

- **Repeated immoral, unbiblical behavior.** A false prophet may be detected by examining his moral character. If a prophet habitually displays character incongruent with that of God, then the former cannot speak for the latter. In Jeremiah 23:14, God speaks of prophets that "commit adultery and live a lie." It is important to note that it is spiritual adultery, not marital, that is in view.

Evangelist Benny Hinn, for example, has a habitual problem with the truth. He has been caught in numerous lies about his own life and ministry. He has threatened not only his critics, but also their innocent children. He claims to have been visited by Elijah and the late Kathryn Kuhlman (a Word of Faith evangelist to whom he

often refers for inspiration), and he reports to get "an anointing" from visiting the grave of Aimee Semple McPherson, founder of the Foursquare Gospel movement — evidence that Hinn has delved into the biblically forbidden realm of necromancy (Deut. 18:10-11; Lev. 20:27; Jer. 14:14).



Peters

- **Prophesying under a false god.** If a prophet worships or prophesies in the name of a god other than Yahweh, then he or she is a false prophet (Jer. 2:8). Though the Word of Faith (WOF) preachers will not do this explicitly, they come very close.

Hinn once related to his audience that he learned spiritual truths regarding positive confession not from God's Word but from a witch. Evangelist Creflo Dollar's Jesus, who came not as God but only as a man whom God anointed, is not the Jesus of the Bible.

- **False prophecies and visions.** One of the most recognized tests for a false prophet is whether or not his prophecies come to pass (Deut. 18:21-22). At his church on Dec. 31, 1989, Hinn went into a trance-like stupor during which God supposedly spoke directly through him to enlighten the

congregation on some of the major events of the coming decade. Hinn prophesied that Fidel Castro would die in office, the U.S. East Coast would be ravaged by earthquakes, and that by "'94 or '95, no later than that, God will destroy the homosexual community of America with fire."

Many of the WOF leaders are also known for relating false visions and dreams but claim for them divine origins. The Bible does not smile upon such as these (Jer. 23:25-32).

- **Revelation Knowledge.** This is the belief that God imparts to a select few extra-biblical knowledge of Himself and various other spiritual truths. The doctrine of Revelation Knowledge assumes a spirit/matter dualism in which the spiritual and physical realms are forever separate. Therefore, rational thought is of no value in spiritual matters.

Hinn, under the authority of Revelation Knowledge, has taught of a nine-member Trinity, that women were to give birth out of their sides, and that Adam could fly to the moon. One can see how rational thought might be a hindrance to the WOF teachers. Was it not Christ Himself that taught us to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind (Matt. 22:37)?

Approach with caution preachers who claim to have regular visits from the supernatural, claim to have a special "anointing," claim that it is always God's will for you to be healed, claim that God will bless you when you "sow a seed" into their ministries (rather than to your local church), or try to send you an anointed "point of contact" such as a handkerchief, prayer cloth, vial of oil, etc.

Watch also for those preachers who publicly speak in tongues with no interpreter or who engage in "slaying in the Spirit." Lastly, remember that someone's apparent miracle-working abilities are not necessarily from God (Matt. 24:24).

Finally, brothers and sisters, I leave you with this Scripture passage: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)

Peters is interim minister of education at First Church, Vicksburg. He holds a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in Biblical Languages and a Master of Theology (Th.M.) from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. Peters can be contacted at (601) 636-2493 or by e-mail: jpeters@fbcvicksburg.org.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Christopher Layton was ordained to the ministry by First Church, Mendenhall, on August 24. He travels throughout the southeastern states to minister to youth. Pictured (from left) are Gary Permenter, Layton, and Kermit D. McGregor, pastor.

Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, ordained Shannon Poole and Wayne Foster as deacons on August 24. Pictured (from left) are Poole, Foster, and Timothy McCaffrey, pastor.

First Church, Taylorsville, licensed ministers Michael Walker and Jared Pierce on September 14. Pictured (from left) are Walker and Pierce.

Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, licensed Jamie Wallace to the ministry on August 24. He is currently serves as interim pastor of Shady Grove Church, Lincoln. Pictured (from left) are Wallace and Timothy McCaffrey.

Pocahontas Church, Clinton, recently ordained Gary Taylor as deacon. Pictured (from left) are his daughter Rachel, his wife Tina, Taylor, and Michael Bird, pastor.

Hernando Church, Hernando, licensed Greg Hurt to preach on September 7. He has served as a Sunday School teacher and deacon. Pictured (from left) are James Spencer, pastor, and Hurt.



Poole, Foster, and McCaffrey



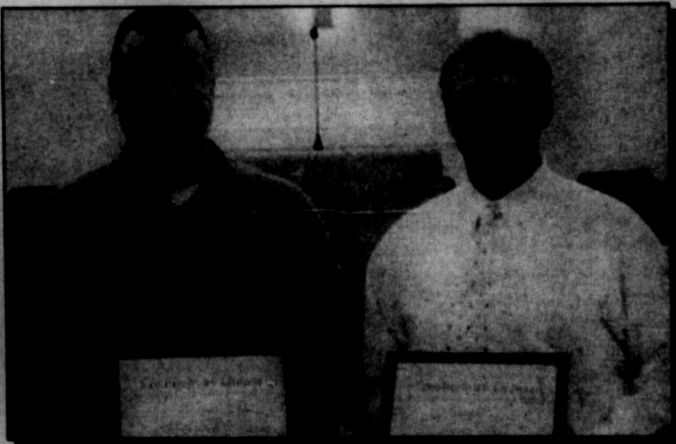
Jamie Wallace and Timothy McCaffrey



Permenter, Layton, and McGregor, pastor



The Taylor Family and Michael Bird, pastor



Michael Walker and Jared Pierce



James Spencer, pastor and Greg Hurt